

ROUTINE

ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ARA/NEA REARCS

B1 1.4(D), B6  
R251

PAGE 01 OF 02 CARACA 02696 00 OF 03 042102Z 033902 5043110  
ACTION: VE(02)

INFO: DAND(02) RJ(01) MM(01) JPL(01) JPH(01) CO(02) SPA(01)  
EC(01) PE(01) DCAR(01) DEP(01) TDG(01) BP(02) BSC(00)  
LNE(01) INT(01) ARA(01) PPC(01) OAS(01) PPA(01)  
EPSC(04) DEPC(01)

----- 05:1041Z A1 MAN (TOTAL COPIES: 029)  
ACTION: ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ACOA-06 ACDE-00 AID-00 ACQ-00 CEA-01 CTME-00  
DDDE-00 DOEE-00 ANHR-01 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00 EXIM-01  
E-00 FRE-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INP-00 ITC-01 L-00  
APS-00 HSAE-00 NSCE-00 BMB-01 GPIC-01 PA-00 PM-00  
PPS-00 P-00 SP-00 SSB-03 STR-00 TRSE-00 T-00  
FMP-00 FMB-00 DSCC-00 DPL-04 C-00 WFT-00 SAS-00  
/022W

R 042101Z SEP 98  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 164  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
CIA WASHDC  
OIA WASHDC  
USIA WASHDC 1749  
USDOC WASHDC 3061

CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 002696

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/08  
TAGS: PCOV, PREL, ECON, EFIN, UE

SUBJECT: IRENE SAEZ'S "CONTRACT FOR CHANGE"

CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED] REASON 1.5 B6  
(B)

SUMMARY

1. (C) IRENE SAEZ IS THE ONLY CANDIDATE WHO CAN BEAT CHAVEZ AND  
THEN GOVERN. [REDACTED] TOLD US B1, B6  
SEPTEMBER 2.

[REDACTED] SAEZ'S  
"CONTRACT FOR CHANGE WITH LIBERTY," A TEN-POINT ELECTORAL PLATFORM  
WHICH SAEZ WILL USE TO "RE-ENERGIZE" HER CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

SAEZ NO LONGER IN SECOND PLACE?

2. (C) POLOFFS MET SEPTEMBER 2 WITH [REDACTED] B1, B6

3. (U) [REDACTED] CALLED "ERRONEOUS" 4 PERCENT POLL BY THE RESPECTED

CARACA 02696 00 OF 03 042102Z 033902 5043  
CARACAS POLLING COMPANY DATANALYSIS WHICH SHOWED THAT SUPPORT FOR  
IRENE HAD FALLEN TO TEN PERCENT--PUTTING HER IN THIRD PLACE--AND  
THAT HENRIQUE SALAS ROMER HAD MOVED SOLIDLY INTO SECOND PLACE WITH  
27 PERCENT POPULARITY. THIS POLL WAS PUBLISHED RECENTLY IN THE  
CARACAS DAILY "EL UNIVERSAL," WHERE IT WAS ATTACKED [REDACTED] AS B6  
"BOUGHT AND PAID FOR" BY THE SALAS CAMPAIGN. (NOTE: FRONT-RUNNER  
HUGO CHAVEZ POLLED 46 PERCENT IN THE SAME POLL. END NOTE.) B1, B6

5. (C) [REDACTED] ARGUED THAT ULTIMATELY IRENE WOULD PREVAIL OVER  
SALAS. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] BY DECEMBER, THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE  
WILL BE A RACE BETWEEN SAEZ AND CHAVEZ. THIS BELIEF WAS PREDICATED  
ON TWO ASSUMPTIONS: B6

1. SALAS LOSES STEADY AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. [REDACTED] SAID  
SALAS WOULD BE DAMAGED GOODS AFTER THE NOVEMBER REGIONAL ELECTIONS,  
WINNING AT MOST ONE GOVERNORSHIP AND ONLY A HANDFUL OF  
CONGRESSIONAL POSITIONS. SAEZ, IN CONTRAST, WOULD BENEFIT FROM AN  
ELECTORAL MAP "PAINTED GREEN AND WHITE" -- THE PARTY COLORS OF THE  
CHRISTIAN SOCIAL PARTY (COPEI) AND OF DEMOCRATIC ACTION (AD)  
RESPECTIVELY. (NOTE: COPEI IS A MEMBER OF THE SAEZ COALITION.  
IRENE HAS AN ALLIANCE WITH COPEI AND AD IN CARACAS FOR THE NOVEMBER  
6 ELECTIONS, BUT AD IS RUNNING ITS OWN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LUIS

ALFARO UCHER.) [REDACTED] SAID THAT SALAS, WITHOUT WINNING SUPPORT IN  
THE NOVEMBER 8 ELECTIONS, WILL COLLAPSE.

2. AD WOULD REACH A MODUS VIVENDI TO EXPLICITLY OR TACITLY SUPPORT  
SAEZ. [REDACTED] POINTED TO THE COALITION THAT SAEZ HAD BUILT BETWEEN  
HER ORGANIZATION, COPEI, AND AD TO SUPPORT CANDIDATES IN THE  
FEDERAL DISTRICT AS AN EXAMPLE OF SAEZ'S ABILITY TO "BUILD  
BRIDGES." ALFARO NOTED [REDACTED] HAD ALSO REFRAINED FROM ATTACKING  
SAEZ. [REDACTED] PREDICTED THAT ALFARO WOULD CONTINUE TO POLL POORLY  
LEAVING AD WITH LITTLE OPTION EXCEPT TO SUPPORT, DIRECTLY OR  
INDIRECTLY, SAEZ. B1, B6

IRENE SAEZ'S PROGRAM IN A NUTSHELL

B1, B6

(U) BEGIN TEXT:

IRENE SAEZ: CONTRACT FOR CHANGE IN LIBERTY

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INCOMING

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I SHARE WITH ALL VENEZUELAN THE ANGUISH OF THE CRITICAL SITUATION  
THROUGH WHICH VENEZUELA IS PASSING. WE ARE TIRED OF THE POLITICAL  
GAMES AND OF THE FAILINGS OF TRADITIONAL POLITICS. THE TIME HAS  
COME FOR A NEW GENERATION. FOR THAT REASON:

1. IRENE SAEZ CONDE, A VENEZUELAN WOMAN, IN MY CONDITION AS AN  
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC, BY THIS  
DOCUMENT FORMALLY PROMISE THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE:

## 1. TO COMBAT HUNGER:

TO CONTROL THE RISING COST OF LIVING; TO LOWER INFLATION FROM 40  
PERCENT TO LESS THAN 10 PERCENT; AND TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES TO  
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE CITIZEN.

## 2. TO STRIKE AGAINST CRIME:

TO MODERNIZE THE POLICE SYSTEM; TO PURIFY THE EXISTING POLICE  
AUTHORITIES; TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS; AND TO FOCUS ON THE  
SELECTION, TRAINING AND EQUIPPING OF THE NEW POLICE.

3. TO HAND OVER LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS:  
TO RECOGNIZE THE LAND OWNERSHIP OF THE INHABITANTS OF ONE MILLION

HOUSES LOCATED IN ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOODS IN AREAS THAT ARE NOT IN  
DISPUTE.

## 4. TO PROTECT WOMEN:

TO FIGHT, WITH ALL MY STRENGTH, AGAINST ABUSE IN THE HOME, AND  
INJUSTICES COMMITTED IN THE WORK PLACE; TO GUARANTEE FOOD AND CARE  
FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

## 5. TO FIGHT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF YOUTH:

TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE SECURE THEIR FIRST JOB; TO CREATE A 'YOUTH  
CREDIT' SYSTEM TO OBTAIN THEIR FIRST HOME, CAR, OR MOTORCYCLE.

## 6. TO REDUCE BUREAUCRACY:

TO ELIMINATE BUREAUCRATIC PAPERWORK; TO PUNISH ALL WHO TAKE  
ADVANTAGE OF THEIR POSITION TO ILLEGITIMATELY ENRICH THEMSELVES; AND TO  
PUNISH CORRUPT INDIVIDUALS ARE COMMON CRIMINALS.

## 7. TO CONFRONT UNEMPLOYMENT:

TO FOSTER THE CREATION OF 300 THOUSAND JOBS PER YEAR IN THE PRIVATE  
SECTOR.

## 8. TO ESTABLISH 'HEALTH INSURANCE' FOR WORKERS:

TO PROVIDE WORKERS 'BASIC HEALTH INSURANCE' THAT WILL PERMIT ONE TO  
SELECT WHICHEVER PUBLIC HOSPITAL OR PRIVATE CLINIC ONE WISHES.

## 9. TO GUARANTEE MORE AND BETTER EDUCATION:

TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND SPORTS FIELDS; AND TO RAISE  
CLASS HOURS PER YEAR FROM 840 TO 1,500 SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A BETTER  
EDUCATED PUBLIC FOR A MORE PRODUCTIVE COUNTRY.

## 10. TO ESTABLISH THE 'REVOCATION OF MANDATE' FOR PUBLIC OFFICES:

TO ADVANCE A CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM TO REQUIRE THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC, GOVERNORS, MAYORS, SENATORS, DEPUTIES, REGIONAL  
LEGISLATORS, AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILMEN TO PROVIDE AN ACCOUNTING OF  
THEIR CONDUCT (IN OFFICE). THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO  
REVOKE THE (PUBLIC OFFICIAL'S) MANDATE.

I HAVE PRESENTED THIS CONTRACT, BASED UPON MY PROGRAM OF  
GOVERNMENT, TO ALL THE PARTIES AND INDEPENDENT MOVEMENTS THAT

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SUPPORT ME. I HAVE DEMANDED OF ALL WHO SUPPORT ME TO FULLY ACCEPT  
THE TERMS OF THIS PROMISE, AND THEY HAVE ACCEPTED.

THIS IS THE PROMISE THAT I ASSUME WITH VENEZUELA BEFORE GOD AND  
BEFORE MY PEOPLE.

IN CARACAS, THE 26TH OF AUGUST OF 1996

SIGNED IRENE SAEZ

END TEXT.

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COMMENT  
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B1

MASON

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